

ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA CRAJ Dedicates Special Issue to AAC's Innovative Models of Care Work

The researchers, health care professionals, consumer groups and other partners that comprise the Arthritis Alliance of Canada are winning widespread acclaim in the March edition of the Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRAJ) for building real-world results through innovative Models of Care (MOC).

With the six million Canadians living with arthritis and related musculoskeletal conditions projected to double in less than 20 years, the need for new approaches that offer practical and results-oriented tools has never been greater. The AAC was ahead of the wave in recognizing this need, beginning work a decade ago to develop a strategic, scalable and sustainable MOC framework that can be customised and used across healthcare systems in Canada.

The March edition of the CRAJ highlights this body of work, cataloguing the comprehensive efforts of the AAC and providing perspectives from the international research community to individual disciplines.

In particular, the CRAJ highlights six major initiatives that AAC has designed and developed as part of its implementable MOC framework. These tools have been created to help equip clinicians with initiatives that can be adopted, embraced and easily put to work in their daily practice:

- 1) [A Tool for Developing and Evaluating Models of Care](#)
- 2) [Pan-Canadian Approach to Inflammatory Arthritis Models of Care](#)
- 3) [Inflammatory Arthritis Care Map and Toolkit](#)
- 4) [Inflammatory Arthritis System-Level Performance Measures](#)
- 5) [The Osteoarthritis Clinical Assessment Tool](#)
- 6) [The Rheumatoid Arthritis Core Clinical Dataset](#)

Taken together what these six initiatives tell us is that we must adopt a comprehensive, and therefore varied, approach to the challenges ahead. Arthritis is not one disease. It is many. Musculoskeletal pain does not have one source. It has many. Our systems of care and support are not uniform. They are many. It only follows, therefore, that we must adopt a variety of strategies, approaches and initiatives to help health care decision makers achieve practical success.

That is precisely the cause to which the AAC has committed itself for the past decade.

The opportunity now is to take the proven, peer-reviewed value of this work and put it into widespread practice. The CRAJ's new edition demonstrates that AAC's success is attracting international interest as the comprehensive approach we have championed in Canada is watched closely by others and beginning to be adopted as best practice worldwide.

ABOUT THE ARTHRITIS ALLIANCE OF CANADA

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, formed in 2002, is pan-Canadian assembly of arthritis stakeholders working collectively to improve the lives of people living with arthritis. While each member organization continues its own work, the Alliance provides a central focus for national arthritis-related initiatives. For more information, visit www.arthritisalliance.ca or contact our Executive Director at 416-979-2564.

"....a Pan-Canadian approach to Inflammatory Arthritis model of care has been successfully implemented throughout Canada. There is no "one size fits all" solution, and in the end, the most appropriate approach is determined by the rheumatologist's style of practice, availability of allied health professionals and resources to support the model of care, and ultimately, the needs of the local community." – CRAJ, March 2018 Edition
